

I fully support the removal of all Morse Code requirements for all of the FCC amateur radio licenses. Morse code is only one mode of operation for ham radio operators, and the FCC does not test competency in other operating modes. I learned Morse code in the US Army in 1979 and 1980, and have never had to use it for

The original Morse code requirement was to assist ships at sea in distress. Nobody uses Morse code anymore, other than some ham radio operators. When the code requirement actually served a purpose, it made sense to include it, but now it is simply one mode of operation, rather than a life and death saving measure. I learned Morse code in the US Army in 1979 and 1980, and never had to use it for anything, and Army even did away with that job because nobody uses outside of amateur radio.

Listening in on the hurricane nets during Katrina with several other Technician class licenses, all we heard was voice communications, yet we could not assist because of our lack of Morse code keeping us from upgrading to General class, even though we were in Mississippi with 2 major evacuee centers nearby.

Most General and Extra class license holders that I know never even use Morse code, and most of them no longer even remember code. They merely learned enough to pass the 5 wpm test, and then promptly forgot it, because of the lack of use. And with current technology using a Morse code reader and Morse code keyboard, one can operate in Morse code without even knowing the code itself.

I understand that there are ham radio operators that like to use Morse code, and that they enjoy it. But I used it in the Army, and found it a poor way to communicate. Relearning code after all these years would be difficult and time consuming, and then I would never use it again. The Morse code requirement is preventing me from fully enjoying amateur radio as a hobby, especially living in a small town where there is little traffic on the local repeater.

The Morse Code requirement does not keep bad operators off the air, and it mainly serves a small, vocal minority of ham radio operators in America today. Although useful for hobby operating at low power (QRP) or for hobby contesting purposes, Morse code is an antiquated mode of operation, and remains a hindrance to many ham radio operators who want to work the HF bands and use the many other various modes of communication available to licensees amateurs.

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